

He is best remembered as the chief flight instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of World War II. His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941, was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African-American military pilots, the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period.

As a boy of 6, "Chief" was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew he had to fly. At 8, he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the area, he had to have a ride. As a teen-ager, no one would give him a ride because of racism.

At 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1920, he had learned so well he received a private license and in 1932, an Airline Transport Rating (#7638), the equivalent of the Ph.D. in the act of science of flying an airplane.

In 1932, he would wed his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who died in 1995.

That same year, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Forsythe, an Atlantic City, NJ surgeon, he became known for long distance flying. East coast-West coast and back to the East coast. They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Forsythe had studied medicine.

In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill Tour in 1934, they brought a Lambert Moncoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh. Lindbergh also bought an aircraft. Separated by one serial number, it hangs in the Lambert St. Louis airport today. Linbergh discouraged their plan to fly.

"Chief" and Forsythe continued to Tuskegee, where the aircraft was christened the "Spirit of Booker T. Washington." He and Forsythe made the first land plane flight from Miami to Nassau in 1934.

They island hopped throughout the Caribbean, to the Northeastern tip of South America. They overflew the Venezuelan straits and landed in Trinidad as national heroes. "Chief," at the age of 86, recreated the trip 59 years later, as his birthday present to himself. He was accompanied in his aircraft by Roscoe Draper, lifelong friend and Tuskegee Airmen instructor, and Dr. and Mrs. Lawrence Koons.

With his credentials as a Certified Flight Instructor and Airline Transport rated pilot, "Chief" touched thousands of the nation's military and civilian pilots, such as Gen. B.O. Davis Jr.; Gen. Daniel "Chappie" James; Col. Herbert Carter, and other Tuskegee Airmen during the Tuskegee Experiment.

"Chief" gave countless free airplane rides to the youth of the world, and was a founding member of the NAI, Black Wings in Aviation; the Tuskegee Chapter bears his name. For 22 years, youth from 16-19 have received intensive ground and flight training during the last two weeks in July at the NAI Summer Flight Academy, in order to prepare them for pilot ratings.

Many of his students, such as Capt. Raymond Dothard, U.S. Air, and president Mandella's U.S. pilot; Southeast Asian standouts such as Lt. Col. Robert V. Western, (Bob Mig Sweep); Judge John D. Allen, F-4 Flight Commander, Columbus, Ga; Col. James Otis Johnson, USAF, and many others, have continued in the footsteps of "Chief."

He also soloed the late Capt. "Pete" Peterson of the USAF Thunderbirds Flight Demonstration Team.

At 84, Chief turned over the reins of his beloved Moton Field training site airport to Col. Roosevelt J. Lewis Jr., USAF, another aviation protege, who flew his aircraft to Trinidad with "Chief" in 1993. They proceeded to facilitate 18 young people into military training needs since 1991.

Two of his last students, Capt. Kevin T. Smith and Lt. Greg West, were the first two blacks in the history of the Alabama Air National Guard. With 385 hours in the F-16, Capt. Smith scored "Top Gun" honors for the USAF in March 1996 Red Flag competition. "Chief" was thrilled.

He is survived by sons, Alfred and Charles; Charles' wife, Peggy; his grandchildren, Vincent, Christina and Marina; his great-granddaughter Krystal; his nieces and nephews, in-laws, and his dog, "Stinky."

[From the Tuskegee News, Apr. 1996]

PIONEER AVIATOR "CHIEF" ANDERSON DIES AT AGE 89

C. Alfred "Chief" Anderson, one of America's last aviation pioneers, died Saturday morning, April 13, 1996, at his Tuskegee home after a lengthy bout with cancer. He was 89.

Born to Janie and Iverson Anderson of Bryn Mawr PA, and a 56-year resident of Tuskegee, "Chief" Anderson was an inductee of the Alabama Aviation Hall of Fame (1991), the International Order of the Gathering of Eagles (1990), and winner of the famous Brewer Trophy (1985).

He held many other aviation awards. An Honorary Doctorate of Science was conferred by Tuskegee University in 1988. His first love always was teaching students to fly. He amassed over 52,000 flying hours.

Universally known as "Chief," he is best remembered as the Chief Flight Instructor and mentor of the famed "Tuskegee Airmen" of WWII.

His 40-minute flight with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt during her Tuskegee visit in 1941 was the catalyst that led to the training of the first African American military pilots, known as the "Tuskegee Experiment."

He also flew Vice President Henry Wallace from Tuskegee to Atlanta during that period. Chief Anderson's life has been a shining example of integrity, self reliance, adventure and contributions to others.

As a young boy of six, Chief Anderson was fascinated with the idea of airplanes and knew that he had to fly. At eight he ran away from home looking for airplanes rumored to be barnstorming in the areas he had to have a ride.

As a teenager, no one would give him a ride because of racism. At the age of 22, he borrowed \$2,500 from friends and relatives, bought a used airplane and taught himself to fly. By 1929, he had learned so well until he received a private license and in 1932 an Airline Transport Rating, an equivalent of the Ph.D. in the art and science of flying an airplane.

More importantly that year (1932), he married his childhood sweetheart, Gertrude Elizabeth Nelson, who preceded him in death in 1995.

Later in 1932, with a friend and flying partner, Dr. Albert Forsythe, an Atlantic City, N.J. surgeon, he became known for long distance flying; East coast-West coast and back to the East coast.

They also flew the first overseas flight by Negroes to Montreal, Canada, where Dr. Forsythe had studied medicine. In preparation for a Pan American Goodwill tour in 1934 they bought a Lambert Moncoupe airplane in St. Louis, Mo., where they met Charles Lindbergh.

HONORING THE VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

HON. PAT ROBERTS

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago today, the Nation was gripped by the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, OK. We looked on in shock and horror as rescue workers and members of the community tried valiantly to reach the victims still trapped in the rubble—victims who were young and old, victims who were somebody's child or parent, husband or wife, brother or sister, friend or colleague. The magnitude of the tragedy was incomprehensible, the sense of loss overwhelming. We were left, in the words of the Roman philosopher Virgil, with "a grief too much to be told."

As the hours and days passed, our grief continued to mount. Mixed with the grief was a sense of empathy and compassion so strong that it gave birth to courage and hope and a resolute spirit. We watched the faces of thousands of heroes as they reached out with gestures large and small. We knew as a community and as a nation that we would endure.

Some 168 lives were lost that day, including the lives of 7 employees from the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS]. A little over a month after the bombing, we paid tribute to the seven APHIS employees on the floor of this Chamber. Last year in this Chamber I paid tribute to Olen Bloomer, Jim Boles, Peggy Clark, Dick Cummins, Adele Higginbottom, Carole Khalil, and Rheta Long. I spoke of the lives they had led—good, productive, loving lives—and remembered their dedication to their work and their families. Today, we honor their memory and we remember as well the other victims, the survivors, and all the people whose lives were so sadly transformed by the events in Oklahoma.

SALUTE TO THE SIKH NATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 1996

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Sikh Nation on Vaisakhi Day, the anniversary of the founding of the Sikh Nation. The 297th birthday of the Sikh Nation occurred this past Saturday, April 13. I salute the Sikh Nation on this occasion.

The Sikh religion is a revealed, monotheistic religion which believes in the equality of all people, including gender equality. Its principles are found in the Guru Granth Sahib, the writings of the 10 Gurus, founders of the Sikh religion. Vaisakhi Day marks the anniversary of the consecration of the Sikh Nation by the tenth and final Guru, Guru Gobind Singh. The Sikh Nation has always tried to live in peace with its neighbors. The Sikhs suffered disproportionate casualties in India's struggle for independence, and Punjab, the Sikh homeland, was the last part of the subcontinent to be subdued by the British.